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Reflections: Taking the Long View

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Taking the Long View

by Linda Silka

We often are told that the daily news is what is important. From newspapers and a multitude of other media sources, we hear so much about what just happened and what the immediate state of affairs is. Yet, journals such as *Maine Policy Review* fill an important role not played by these daily-focused, urgent sources. *Maine Policy Review* articles take the longer view. It is important to ask the question of how do we bring the perspectives of time and research to understanding the issues we are facing. We do this through sources like *Maine Policy Review*. This *MPR* issue especially brings together information gathered from many resources and gathered across many time periods, and every article does this and does this about Maine.

The articles in this *MPR* use research and policy analysis to help us think in deeper and broader terms. The issue is filled with research and action ideas on some of Maine's most important issues: food insecurity, the importance of education and trust building for Wabanaki self governance, climate change and how will it affect our forests, how we should develop alternative power sources such as through building solar capacity. The articles take us through analyses of policy opportunities and explore specific approaches such as citizen initiatives, which can be more complex but also more important than people may realize. The articles also give a sense of how what might seem as independent issues are, in many cases, linked.

In short, reading these articles can inform your views on important Maine topics. One question we should all consider is how do we encourage and support conversations about the topics. At your neighborhood library, for example, how might you bring up and discuss some of these issues. With whom might you share what you learned? As you travel to different parts of Maine, how might you think about the implications of the various articles that are in this *MPR* issue? In the different roles you fill at work, in the neighborhood, in your faith community, how might you consider using the insights from the articles? And how might you encourage others to read and learn from the articles?

Here at *Maine Policy Review*, we would love to set up meetings in your community with you to talk about the topics covered in this or other *MPR* issues! Let us know if this is of interest.



Linda Silka is the executive editor of *Maine Policy Review*. A social and community psychologist by training, Silka was formerly director of the University of Maine's

Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. In addition to her role with *MPR*, she is a senior fellow at UMaine's Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions.